BENGALURU, MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

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NOT ON A ROLL

Interactions with Booth Level Officers, Bengalurueans reveal systemic issues that could lead to large-scale exclusion of eligible voters, warns civil group

PAGE 3

GREAT GOING

Virat continues fine run at Wankhede Stadium, becomes first batter to reach 1,000 runs against MI

PAGE 9

One digital arrest case reported every 57 hours in state, figures till Feb this year show — victims have collectively lost ₹11.57 crore, while authorities have managed to recover only ₹25.18 lakh so far

STILL CAUGHT IN THE WEB

Fraud often involves cybercriminals impersonating police officers or government officials

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Despite repeated warnings, awareness drives and strengthened cyber policing, digital arrest scams continue to surface in Karnataka, with the state recording one such case roughly every 57 hours in the first two months of 2026.

Official data placed before the Karnataka Legislative council recently showed that 25 digital arrest fraud cases have already been reported till February this year, indicating that the cybercrime has not completely subsided.

Victims in these cases have collectively lost ₹11.57 crore, while authorities have managed to recover only ₹25.18 lakh so far.

Digital arrest fraud typically involves cybercriminals impersonating police officers or government officials, intimidating victims through phone or video calls and coercing them into transferring money under the pretext of an ongoing investigation.

Although the number of cases in early 2026 appears relatively lower, the figures from the past few years reveal how rapidly the crime escalated across the state. In 2025, Karnataka registered 345 digital arrest cases, which translates to almost one case every 25 hours on average. During that year alone, victims lost ₹215.14 crore, while enforcement agencies were able to recover ₹10.66 crore.

The surge was most pronounced in 2024, when the state reported 1,129 digital arrest cases, the highest in recent years.

> **“Decline in cases since the peak in 2024 partly to stronger enforcement measures and awareness campaigns across the state. The government has re-designated 45 CEN police stations as dedicated cybercrime police stations**
>
> —Police official

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Dialysis centre in dire straits

With no Cauvery water supply, centre has to use hard, muddy borewell water and as its generator is defunct, sometimes during power cuts, dialysis has to be stopped

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Among the laudable projects announced by city corporations, was the setting up of dialysis centres for people suffering from end-stage renal failures. Agencies are partnering with the jurisdictional City Corporations to provide the needy with quality dialysis, but a dire lack of basic infrastructure is creating hurdles.

Take a look at this dialysis centre opened with much fanfare at the building constructed for a hospital and a gym under the MLA Local Area Development Scheme in 2018. The centre was functioning fine till the lockdown announced during the covid-19 pandemic. It was shut down, but the then BBMP reopened it as patients needed it.

As of now, the dialysis centre has eight machines and is functioning in two shifts serving around 16 patients. However, it does not have Cauvery water supply and or a diesel generator which is adding to the pain of patients and the people working

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Evening of music

Experience an enriching Carnatic vocal concert by renowned vocalist Prof Dr Shertallay Renganatha Sharma, accompanied by leading instrumentalists. Where: St John's Medical College Campus When: April 19, 4.15 pm

02 Global jazz night

Enjoy a global jazz showcase featuring international artists and diverse musical traditions at the 6th edition of this celebrated festival. Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall; When: April 24, 7 pm

03 Candlelight concerts

Immerse yourself in intimate candlelit performances blending Bollywood hits, global classics, and tributes to icons like AR Rahman and ABBA. Where: DoubleTree by Hilton Bengaluru Whitefield; Alliance Française de Bangalore; Samarthanam Auditorium; When: April 18 & May 17, 30 (multiple time slots)

04 Poetry night

Experience an evening of expressive poetry with featured poet Sathve at one of India's longest-running poetry platforms. Where: Urban Solace – Cafe for the Soul; When: April 14, 7.30 pm to 9 pm

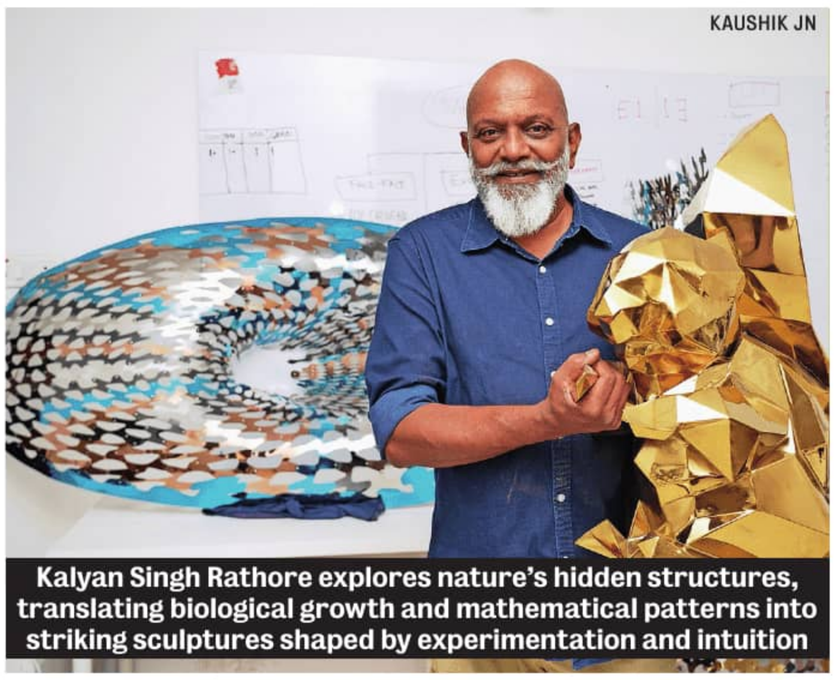
05 Immersive music fest

Step into a high-energy global festival experience with Spain's elrow, featuring theatrical performances, immersive décor, and a curated international DJ lineup. Where: Bengaluru (venue to be announced); When: May 23, 3 pm onwards

Curiosity shapes metal from wonder to sculptural innovation

A designer's journey from playful experimentation to large-scale sculptures, blending nature, geometry, and hands-on craft beyond conventional artistic boundaries

Vasudha Zora
c-vasudha.sinha
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR


KAUSHIK JN

Kalyan Singh Rathore explores nature's hidden structures, translating biological growth and mathematical patterns into striking sculptures shaped by experimentation and intuition

With the sky opening up for this young wanderer, where the hum of aircraft once defined the skyline, a young boy grew up watching the spectacles of the world with unusual attention. For Kalyan Singh Rathore, curiosity broke free from the confinement of textbooks and glimmered as he explored the vastness his environment offered.

"Growing up in the '70s, I think I was fortunate to have a good atmosphere where learning was not entirely left to schools," he says. Guided by his father, an aeronautical designer, and surrounded by scientists, engineers working at HAL, and doctors, Rathore experienced a childhood where academics did not feel overwhelming. He says this allowed him to explore beyond school, letting curiosity win over the academic grind.

He channelled his observations into visual forms early on. "I would be fascinated by insects and the plants I would see in my suburban home," he says, adding that he remained deeply engaged with the elements of the natural world. This curiosity carried into classrooms, where he often sketched prototypes for toys he wanted to build, sometimes ignoring lessons.

Despite this inclination, sculpting did not come first. Rathore moved into industrial design and began working on furniture and product designs. While the field interested him, he soon felt constrained. "Life went on and after a few years, I started finding some kind of dissatisfaction in designing only for a client or based on a client brief," he says.

A turning point came through an unexpected, personal experience. "I would see a whole lot of geometries and shapes in my REM sleep. I would not have imagined in my wildest dream that I would become a sculptor because I had no training," he says. In 2005, a Bengaluru-based builder approached him to design a stainless-steel tree-like sculpture for a public space, marking his entry into sculpting.

His work evolved as he explored nature's structures, drawing from biology, physics and mathematics. "The structures in nature, for example, the cellular divisions, the pattern by which a tree grows all these things interact with physics. As geometry for me is not decorative, it is fundamental," he says.

Driven by curiosity, Rathore abandoned conventional design constraints to explore nature's hidden systems, crafting sculptures that translate mathematical patterns into tangible forms while embracing imperfection as a catalyst for innovation

Rathore describes his creative process as fluid and exploratory. He often begins with a sketch guided by a principle or studies natural forms to interpret their systems. "There are times when I have explored certain forms that are in nature and tried to echo its mathematical or geometric predisposition. It has always been a process of learning something new and finally enlarging horizons to interpret the work," he says. "The concept stage is often too fluid; you like certain things and then you are not happy with certain things," he adds. "You must put in a certain amount of struggle, that struggle is what sets your subconscious mechanism into play." Nature remains his constant inspiration. From soap bubbles forming three-dimensional arrays to patterns seen while cutting vegetables, he finds meaning in everyday structures. "Nature does not waste resources, and when I follow that template, my projects do not have materials that are in excess of what is needed," he says.Among his achievements, Rathore holds a Guinness World Record for the tallest sculpture made using photographs. Commissioned by Accenture, he created a 16-foot structure using folded photographs forming hexagonal panels.He prefers a hands-on approach, working directly on the shop floor rather than relying solely on drawings. While he uses technology, he resists letting it define his process.

"I would love to design my process in the real world rather than letting software dictate it," he says, adding that AI remains a tool, not a creator.

Maintenance unchanged as court rejects pleas from both spouses

The Karnataka High Court has declined to increase the maintenance awarded to a woman under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, while simultaneously rejecting the husband's plea to set aside the existing order. A single-judge bench of Justice V Srishananda dismissed revision petitions filed by both parties, thereby upholding the earlier directions of the trial court. The court found no compelling reason to interfere with the orders already in place and maintained a balanced view of the claims raised by both sides. The couple married in April 2009. The wife alleged that she faced repeated demands for additional dowry and endured both physical and mental harassment during the marriage. In June 2015, the Metropolitan Magistrate, Traffic Court-I, Mayo Hall Unit in Bengaluru, partly allowed her application under Section 12 of the Domestic Violence Act. The court restrained the husband from committing any acts of domestic violence and directed him to pay ₹5,000 per month towards rent, ₹4,000 per month as maintenance, and ₹40,000 as compensation. The LVII Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge later affirmed this order in August 2016.

Before the High Court, the husband argued that he had shut down the school he once ran and now remained unemployed, making him incapable of paying maintenance. He also claimed that his wife earns over ₹1.5 lakh per month and therefore does not deserve any increase in maintenance.

The wife, however, contended that her husband owns ancestral and personal properties but deliberately conceals these assets. She maintained that her independent income should not disqualify her from seeking maintenance.

After examining the submissions, the court noted that the husband's exact share in ancestral property remains undetermined and cannot justify enhancement. It also observed that the wife's financial records show that she remains financially stable and capable of meeting substantial expenses, including legal costs.

At the same time, the court considered that the husband owns one acre of land, which he mortgaged twice—once in 2019 for ₹3.5 lakh and again in 2021 for ₹1 lakh. — BMB

IN HIGH COURT

Illegal blood sample collection invalid without lawful arrest, court rules

The Karnataka High Court has held that collecting a blood sample from an accused person without a lawful arrest is impermissible and violates established legal procedure. Delivering the ruling, the Court stressed that such medical procedures are contingent upon a valid arrest carried out in accordance with law. It observed that, "collection of blood samples of the accused without there being a lawful arrest is illegal," making it clear that any evidence obtained in such a manner cannot be sustained. The case involved a woman implicated in a criminal matter where authorities alleged drug consumption. She challenged the police action, arguing that officers did not follow mandatory legal requirements during her arrest and that they collected her blood sample unlawfully. After examining the record, the Court found that the arrest itself did not meet procedural safeguards required under law. It noted that police failed to demonstrate adherence to statutory conditions governing arrest, particularly in cases involving offences punishable with less than seven years of imprisonment.

Highlighting due process, the Court remarked that, "medical examination…can follow only a lawful arrest and not otherwise," underlining that such safeguards are not mere formalities but essential protections against misuse of power. In view of these findings, the Court concluded that the blood sample and any material derived from it could not be relied upon, as they were obtained through an illegal process. The petition was accordingly allowed, with the Court reaffirming that procedural violations strike at the root of the prosecution's case. — BMB

Cops go after goons: 37 rowdies externed in 3 months, 6 booked under Goonda Act

Series of high-profile incidents prompt police to undertake drive to identify active offenders, issue warnings

In a stepped-up crackdown on organised crime, city police have externed 37 history-sheeters between January and March this year, while proceedings have been initiated against six more under the Goonda Act. The Central Crime Branch (CCB) along with city police has intensified surveillance and enforcement measures.

Officials said more such actions are being prepared against identified offenders in the coming weeks. According to police sources, a special drive was undertaken by the CCB's anti-rowdy squad to identify active offenders involved in activities disturbing public order. Based on this, proposals were submitted to respective Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs), following which 37 individuals were externed.

The action follows a series of high-profile incidents in the city over the past year, including the murder of rowdy-sheeter Shivaprakash alias Bikshu Shiva, the killing of Haider Ali in front of Garuda Mall in Ashok Nagar, and the recent murder of rowdy-sheeter Pawan Kumar within the Sampigehalli police station limits. Police said they are now preparing detailed dossiers on each identified offender and stepping up preventive action against those considered a threat to public safety.

Deputy Commissioner of Police S Haribabu has also issued a stern warning to rowdies, asking them to stay away from criminal activities. The police have begun conducting "rowdy parades" across the city to monitor and verify the status of listed offenders. Data shared by officials shows that the city currently has around 6,780 listed rowdies. Of these, 3,739 fall under the 'A' category, 2,978 under 'B', and 63 under 'C', based on the severity and frequency of offences.

During these parades, police are collecting updated information on their current residence, contact details, ongoing activities, court appearances and pending warrants. Police have also cautioned offenders against engaging in illegal activities such as intimidation in the name of real estate deals, land grabbing under the guise of settlements, and running high-interest lending rackets. They have been warned against forming gangs and indulging in acts that disrupt public order. Authorities are also screening accounts on platforms like Instagram and Facebook linked to rowdies and their associates are being tracked, particularly those posting content that glorifies or promotes criminal behaviour.

—BMB

Row on Peenya Flyover throws traffic into tizzy

A heated argument over the price of car tyres escalated into a violent brawl on Saturday on the busy Peenya Flyover. The fight sparked public outrage among bystanders and motorists. Peenya Police have registered a case, and further investigation is underway to identify those involved.

According to the complaint, a mechanic, identified as Ameed, was allegedly assaulted by a group led by Shehzad after he failed to procure tyres at a discounted price. A video of the incident has gone viral on X. As per eyewitness accounts, Ameed had taken the group to a tyre shop in Nagasandra but returned shortly without completing the purchase, stating he lacked contacts at the store to make arrangements.

The group led by Shehzad were angered and accused Ameed of lying and wasting their time. The argument soon escalated into a physical confrontation on the flyover. In the video, men can be seen punching and pushing each other near the flyover's concrete barrier, disrupting traffic and drawing public attention to the altercation.

—BMB

Student traced, kidnappers nabbed in hours

A college student was kidnapped on Saturday night near a college hostel in BTM Layout. On receiving the information, Namma 112 staff from Madiwala Police Station initiated an investigation.

As per the police report, the student was forcibly taken away in a car, while the accused threatened him, demanding money. The police gathered information and traced the student, which led them to the kidnappers within five hours of the complaint being lodged.

Police officials revealed that the accused were students of the same college.

They have arrested the accused and further investigation is underway.

—BMB

Voter roll mapping 'mess': Civil group seeks ECI intervention

Citizens in a queue to cast their votes for General Election (File Photo)

Group points to issue of officials reprimanding BLOs for pointing out issue of voter exclusion

Alleging widespread confusion, technical glitches, and administrative pressure, a citizens' collective has raised serious concerns over the ongoing voter roll mapping exercise in Karnataka, urging immediate intervention from the Election Commission of India.

In a detailed representation submitted under the banner 'My Vote, My Right', the group said its interactions with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and residents across Bengaluru reveal systemic issues that could lead to large-scale exclusion of eligible voters.

According to the letter, several BLOs reported facing "immense pressure" from supervisors, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), and higher authorities to complete mapping targets without adequate support. The group pointed to a lack of proper training, written guidelines, and clear protocols for conducting the exercise.

The issue appears to have escalated after a complaint filed on April 1, regarding voter exclusion in Subhash Nagar. Instead of addressing concerns, officials allegedly reprimanded BLOs and intensified pressure. The group termed this response highly condemnable, stressing that responsibility lies with the Election Commission to ensure training, awareness, and sufficient time for the exercise.

Ground-level challenges

Volunteers organising help desks to assist residents in locating their names in the 2002 voter rolls reported multiple hurdles. At one such camp in Subhash Nagar, nearly 100 voters were assisted, revealing gaps in the process.

A key issue is the reliance on historical voter data from 2002. Individuals above 40 years who have moved frequently are unable to recall their place of registration. Similarly, younger voters often lack information about their parents' or grandparents' enrollment details, making mapping nearly impossible.

Even when voters produced valid ID cards issued in 1995 or 2002, entries could not be located on the official database. In several cases, the website returned "Record not found," despite correct EPIC numbers and constituency details. There were also instances where incorrect names were displayed against entered details, raising concerns about database integrity.

—BMB

Political tussle stalls BNCC complex, crores unused

Residents blame Munirathna Naidu and DK Shivakumar for delays, as vacant shops and migrant occupation further complicate civic plans and revenue generation efforts

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials have been auctioning properties to recover unpaid property tax worth crores of rupees. No one has any objection to the GBA recovering unpaid property tax, as revenue remains the lifeline for civic bodies under its jurisdiction. However, many residents have criticised Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) engineers and revenue officials for failing to take suitable measures to inaugurate a ground-plus-two-floor commercial complex constructed with taxpayers' money at Chowdeshwari Bus Stand near JP Park in the RR Nagar Assembly constituency.

The entire building has remained largely vacant for more than two years, with only one shop and an Assistant Revenue Office functioning on the second floor. Residents attribute the delay to administrative apathy and an alleged political tussle between local MLA Munirathna Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and their supporters and well-wishers.

Residents of HMT Layout, Mathikere and surrounding localities blame politicians and the BNCC authorities for keeping the commercial complex closed for more than two years. They complain that the authorities and politicians have failed to make best use of the commercial complex by auctioning shops and shifting BNCC and government offices to this shopping complex. As if it is not enough, around 20 shops constructed under the gallery of the adjacent playground are occupied by migrant workers. The residents said that it would be tough for the authorities to evict such people staying for the last two years.

(1) A ground-plus-two-floor building constructed by the BBMP a few years ago remains un-inaugurated and unused. (2) Only a makeshift bathroom facility is available for women in the area. (3) Around 20 shops designated for vendors behind the multi-storey building are currently occupied by migrant workers. (4) More than 20 small shops built opposite Chowdeshwari Bus Stand are also yet to be opened to the public.

"The building was ready for inauguration. The shops were all set to be auctioned by the authorities to generate revenue. However, the scene changed with the change of guard in Karnataka. BJP was in power in the state when the construction of the building began. After Congress came to power, most of the developmental works came to a grinding halt. This building is ready for occupation but petty political issues played the spoilsport", said Muniswamy S, a resident.

Stating that migrant workers, who are staying in shops constructed under the gallery of the playground, have become a nuisance, Manjunath N, a resident, said vote bank politics and other issues would prevent authorities from evicting these migrant families staying illegally at these shops meant for vendors. "These families have no basic amenities - electricity, water, bathrooms for women, and toilets. The vacant place between these shops and the multi-storied building looks dirty. I want the authorities to relocate these migrant workers to other places", said Manjunath.

Authorities and politicians have constructed around 20 shops on 80 Ft Road, opposite Chowdeshwari Bus Stand, to accommodate stamp vendors and xerox shops. "The Road Transport Office was expected to relocate to this complex. These shops were constructed to accommodate all types of vendors, but they have remained closed to date," said a shop owner, requesting anonymity.

Meanwhile, BNCC Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar said officials would soon initiate steps to auction the shops.

Youth volunteers transform garbage black spot into clean community space

In one of the student-led clean-up drives in Bengaluru, nearly 75 volunteers came together to clear a major garbage black spot along the pipeline road in Uttarahalli, near Mantri Serenity. What was expected to be a small effort turned into a large-scale impact activity, led by students from Dayanand Sagar College and two other colleges.

The stretch, nearly 100 metres long, was filled with mixed waste, making it one of the dirtiest and toughest spots to clean. Volunteers described it as a herculean task as they tackled piles of garbage, including old mattresses, broken furniture, clothes, glass, and other waste.

Over 60 students from Dayanand Sagar College participated actively, along with others, taking the total number of volunteers to more than 75. In just about 90 minutes, the group cleared a significant portion of the waste. The effort led to the removal of one auto full of low-value plastic (LVP), another auto full of clothes waste, and half an auto of mixed waste and glass.

The drive received support from GBA marshals, while local residents also stepped in to assist. Apart from providing gloves and encouragement, some residents joined the clean-up, reflecting a sense of shared responsibility. "It is so good to see college students owning up the streets and spending their weekend for a cleaner Bengaluru. It's good that the fitness activity of Plogging binds citizens, students and civic authorities. Through the plog apart from clearing trash we emphasise on individual and community actions," said a volunteer from the Indian Ploggers Army.

Nearly 75 volunteers cleared a major garbage black spot along the pipeline road in Uttarahalli, near Mantri Serenity over the weekend

The initiative also highlighted how community participation can make such drives more impactful. "The icing on the cake was the onlookers joining an arranging fresh tender coconut for 50+ volunteers and we all took a bottoms up challenge by avoiding straw," the volunteer added. Sai Shourya Inuguru and Shaik Khazida Farheen, who initiated and organised the drive, said the unexpected turnout showed the power of youth. "As the initiators and organisers of the clean-up drive, we expected 30 people, but 75+ showed up and that made us realise something simple: YOUTH has the potential to bring real change in today's world. It's just about reaching them the right way. Volunteers urge residents to own cleanliness and segregation. — BMB

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Waste overflow
Parappana

Garbage and solid waste litter Blue Waters Road near KSRP Campus, causing hygiene concerns.

Vehicle blight
Seshadripuram

An abandoned car parked for months on 1st Main Road is creating obstruction and concern.

Toxic burning
Nallurahalli

Continuous garbage dumping and burning along a busy residential road is causing severe inconvenience and health issues.

Third board exam nixed

The Department of Education has decided to discontinue the third board examination for SSLC and PUC starting this academic year. Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa stated that since students already have sufficient opportunities to pass through the first two examinations, the third exam has been scrapped.

As the first exam has already concluded, only Exam-2 will now be conducted from April 30 to May 13. Students have been given the option to apply for revaluation free of cost. The examination board has clarified that students do not need to wait for revaluation results to apply for Exam-2. As per the rules, marks obtained earlier will not be considered after revaluation. The marks secured after revaluation will be treated as the final marks for Exam-1, the board added.

Education experts have largely welcomed the move, calling it a shift towards a more student-friendly assessment system. "Multiple attempts are useful, but beyond two chances, it often leads to unnecessary prolonging of stress rather than improving learning outcomes," said a Bengaluru-based academic consultant. He added that "a two-exam structure strikes a balance between flexibility and academic discipline". A senior school principal pointed out that frequent exam cycles can dilute focus. "Students tend to rely on repeated attempts instead of preparing seriously the first time. Reducing attempts will encourage better planning and accountability," she said. However, some experts urged caution. "The success of this reform depends on how well the first two exams are designed. They must be fair, moderately difficult and allow scope for genuine improvement," noted an assessment policy researcher.

CBSE schools must set up skill labs

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued fresh guidelines directing all affiliated schools to establish 'Composite Skill Labs' as part of efforts to integrate vocational education into mainstream schooling in line with the National Education Policy 2020.

In a circular, the board reiterated that skill and vocational education is now a mandatory component of school education. The move aims to strengthen practical learning and equip students with hands-on competencies alongside academic knowledge. According to the guidelines, schools are required to create dedicated infrastructure that enables activity-based learning. Composite Skill Labs have been positioned as a key facility to bridge the gap between theoretical understanding and real-world application.

Third language mandatory in Class VI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has directed all its schools to introduce a third language (R3) in Class VI from the academic session 2026–27, in line with its revised Scheme of Studies and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2023.

The board emphasised that multilingualism remains a key focus area under the new framework, with the R1, R2, R3 model aimed at strengthening linguistic proficiency, cultural awareness and national integration among students. While several schools have already initiated the rollout of the third language, CBSE has now made it mandatory for all remaining schools to comply within seven days of the circular's issuance, calling the directive "urgent and mandatory". The board noted that textbooks for R3 languages listed in the Constitution of India will be made available shortly.

Online exams for BU distance education

Bangalore University (BU) recently conducted online examinations for distance education students for the first time. The exams were organised by the Directorate of Online and Distance Education (DODE).

A total of 870 students appeared for the exams from their homes. Of these, 697 students were from Bengaluru, 123 from other parts of Karnataka and 48 from other states. One student appeared from Dubai and another from Australia. Among the candidates, 479 were women and 391 were men. In terms of categories, 361 students were from Backward Classes, 122 from Scheduled Castes and 17 from Scheduled Tribes. Online classes for distance education students were held between 5 pm and 9 pm. For the exams, the university used AI-based systems with human monitoring. Question papers were shared online at the scheduled time.

Mark sheets via DigiLocker from next year

From the next academic year, mark sheets will be distributed only through DigiLocker, the education minister announced. For the first time, students have been enabled to access their results via DigiLocker.

Second PUC students can download their mark sheets through the NAD DigiLocker platform. While this year both digital and physical mark sheets will be issued, from the next academic year onwards, only DigiLocker-based distribution will be followed. Experts have strongly backed the move, highlighting efficiency, security and accessibility.

"Digital mark sheets eliminate the risk of loss or damage and ensure instant access anytime, anywhere. This is a major step towards modernising academic records," said a higher education policy expert. According to official DigiLocker documentation, digital records offer secure storage, easy sharing and legal validity equivalent to original documents, making them reliable for academic and professional use. A technology-in-education specialist noted that "digital systems also reduce errors and streamline verification processes".

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BM SIMPLY PUT

Parental duty calls

All about amendment that allows teachers to seek transfers to care for young children

The State Government has approved an amendment allowing pregnant teachers and those with children under five to request transfers to schools closer to home or spouses' workplaces. The law categorises schools, sets minimum service periods, and ends non-teaching assignments.

Who gets priority for transfers under the new law?
Pregnant teachers and teachers with children under five are prioritised when returning from maternity leave or childcare breaks, allowing them to select schools that make commuting and family care manageable while ensuring continuity in education.

How long must teachers serve before requesting a transfer?
Teachers must complete at least three years in the same school before they can apply for a transfer through counselling, which ensures stability in schools while accommodating teachers' personal needs and preferences.

Are teachers still assigned to non-teaching duties?
No, the amendment explicitly prohibits assigning teachers to non-teaching or administrative duties outside their core classroom responsibilities, ensuring their focus remains on teaching, curriculum delivery, and student development.

How are schools classified for transfers?
Schools are categorised into three groups: Karnataka public schools, Adarsha Vidyalayas, PM Shree schools; government schools with more than 250 students and pre-university colleges; and principals, vice-principals, and heads of PU colleges in categories 1 and 2, which helps prioritise assignments systematically.

Can teachers in Kalyana Karnataka transfer outside the region immediately?
No, teachers must serve at least ten years in Kalyana Karnataka districts before being eligible for transfers outside the region, ensuring experienced staff remain in areas that need continuity and educational stability.

Are there special provisions for Malenadu schools?
Yes, some flexibility is provided for postings in Malenadu to address geographical and logistical challenges, giving teachers better access and support in these remote regions.

How is the transfer process managed?
Transfers are conducted through a structured counselling system based on school category, seniority, availability of posts, and teachers' personal circumstances, allowing teachers to select schools while fulfilling minimum service obligations and maintaining fairness across the state. Officials said that the amendment ensures teachers can balance family responsibilities with professional duties while giving special consideration to pregnant educators and parents of young children.

Action against leaders based on internal 'conspiracy' report

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Sunday that action is being taken against some Congress leaders based on an AICC secretary's report, following allegations of an internal "conspiracy" to defeat the party candidate in the Davanagere South by-election.

He also indicated that his political secretary may resign in connection with this.

The chief minister's remarks came on a day when Karnataka Congress president DK Shivakumar accepted the resignation of party Minority Department chairman K Abdul Jabbar. Jabbar announced his resignation on Saturday, a day after a group of Congress Muslim leaders accused senior members of the party of an "internal conspiracy."

Jabbar, an MLC, had aspired for the Congress ticket from the Davanagere South Assembly segment, but the ticket went to Samarth Mallikarjun, grandson of late MLA Shamanur Shivashankarappa. Shivashankarappa's death necessitated the by-election on April 9.

"The high command appointed an AICC secretary in charge of the Davanagere South bypoll, and action is being taken based on his report," Siddaramaiah said, responding to a question about resignations within the party even before the results.

When asked about speculation that MLC Naseer Ahmed may resign as political secretary to the chief minister, he said, "Yes, he has not yet submitted his resignation. I think he may."

On whether the Congress was accepting defeat in Davanagere South even before the results, the CM said, "Where have we accepted defeat? If action is being taken, does that mean we will lose? What Saleem Ahmed and others have said is that our own leaders were involved in anti-party activities."

"They have not said we will lose because of anti-party activities. Despite anti-party activities, we will win," he added. — PTI

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Do not speculate

At a journalists' meet in Bidar last week, CM Siddaramaiah struck an offbeat note, warning that speculative journalism can be dangerously distracting—turning trivial matters into all-day spectacles without weighing their social impact. He urged journalists to introspect on whether they uphold constitutional values, move beyond mere information-sharing, and instead promote rational, scientific thinking while actively contributing to meaningful social reform.

Road lessons

Is there really a rulebook for entering youth politics? Not quite. It is mostly trial, error and long hours shadowing seniors. But JDS Youth president Nikhil Kumaraswamy has his own formula. At a recent media interaction, when asked how one learns politics, he did not speak of books or ideology. Instead, he spoke of the road. "Travel at least 500 kilometres a day," he said, almost like a field assignment. According to him, that is where the real syllabus lies, in meeting people, hearing problems and picking up awareness first-hand.

Zombie drug myth

The phrase "zombie drugs" may have caught public imagination, but Home Minister G Parameshwara is not buying into it. When reporters pressed him on the issue, he dismissed the term outright. What appeared like a sensational case, he explained, was actually a mix of alcohol use, past drug intake and medication. The individual in question, he said, had a history that explained the behaviour. The conclusion from the Home Minister was firm: no new menace, just a case blown out of proportion.

War of words

CM Siddaramaiah and Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna have been engaged in a verbal duel for some time now. During a recent press conference, Somanna said that the Chief Minister had alleged he had no real power as he never signs files. Reacting to this, Somanna said, "Siddaramaiah has alleged that I have no work and that I am just trying to pass time. What does he mean by that? If I do not get files, do you get files? I do not sign such files because, as per the Centre's decision, projects costing less than Rs 500 crore can be cleared by officials, so I do not need to sign them. This is all due to ego."

Food trails

Politics aside, Siddaramaiah's food stops are becoming just as talked about. Mysuru trips often come with a predictable halt for the famous Mylari dosa. But during a recent campaign in Davanagere, the Chief Minister switched loyalties, at least for the day. He was spotted enjoying the iconic Davanagere benne dose, a local favourite that has its own following.

Power paradox

Former Minister KN Rajanna is believed to be lobbying for a ministerial berth after his

controversial resignation some time ago. When journalists asked him if he would get a ministerial position again, he said, "It is always said that power is poison. If we use it correctly, poison can become medicine, so it all depends on how it is used. There is also another proverb that absolute power corrupts absolutely. Hence, politicians need to keep this in mind and work accordingly, as power is a double-edged sword that can affect either way." —Sridhar Vivan

Experts slam idea to sterilise wildlife as unscientific, unviable

Conversationists point to lack of scientific validity in plan, warning of ecological risks and logistical challenges; seek better alternatives to reduce conflict situations

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Karnataka Forest Minister's idea to sterilise select wild animals to mitigate human-wildlife conflict in the state has not gone down well with wildlife conservationists and experts. Experts say the population control measure to reduce negative interactions between humans and wildlife is not scientifically backed and thus unviable.

They argue that capturing, treating and releasing wildlife is neither simple nor risk-free. Neutering wild animals could also contaminate protected areas that follow a shoot-at-sight protocol if domestic dogs or cats are found inside. According to wildlife researcher Ramesh Belagere, sterilising wildlife involves invasive procedures, administering medication and releasing them back into the wild, which may lead to contamination through urine.

"Apart from contamination risk, what will be the baseline information to neuter an individual or a group of individuals of elephants, tigers, or leopards? Are we looking at neutering adults, sub-adults, or juveniles? In the wild, every aspect of wildlife is random. For instance, a viable reproductive female or male may or may not reproduce due to various factors. How are we going to identify such individuals? We should not try to play God," said Belagere.

Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre recently said the State is considering sterilisation of select wild animals to curb rising human-wildlife conflict. While acknowledging the need for wider debate, he pointed to increasing risks to both human and animal lives. He also said the government is exploring voluntary relocation of villagers and forest dwellers from protected areas to reduce conflict and expand inviolate habitats.

Plan ignites debate, with conservationists urging practical solutions like habitat management, awareness, and corridors instead of risky interventions that could disrupt fragile ecosystems and natural balance

However, experts insist that proven ecological interventions should take precedence. They recommend improving wildlife corridors, strengthening barriers, enhancing patrolling and increasing awareness among communities living near forest fringes. They also stress the need to revisit cropping patterns that attract wildlife.

"Creating and maintaining corridors is a one-time investment, and it is a scientifically proven way to mitigate conflict. Apart from this, the government should focus on spreading awareness about wildlife conflict among villagers in forest fringes, strengthen and maintain forest barriers throughout the year, and improve patrolling. Instead, we are focusing on a solution that will not yield results. The state forest department or government-led awareness activities are almost absent," said Daniel Sukumar Das, director of the Wildlife Conservation Foundation.

Concerns also extend to relocation policies. Conservationist Akhilesh Chipli pointed out that several villages within protected areas are already willing to relocate, but implementation remains slow. "The focus should be on expanding protected areas and voluntary relocation. There are 70 villages inside the Sharavathi Lion-Tailed Macaque Wildlife Sanctuary in the Western Ghats, and most of the hamlets are willing to relocate. However, the government has expressed no interest," he said.

Experts further question the feasibility of sterilisation by drawing parallels with the limited success of stray dog population control programmes. They argue that applying similar methods to wildlife is far more complex and impractical.

Maharashtra remains the only State to receive approval from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to conduct birth control trials in leopards in Pune's Junnar forest division. These immunocontraception trials aim to temporarily limit reproduction, but experts remain sceptical.

"Sterilisation of wildlife is not a scientifically proven solution. Capturing them will involve a 50 percent mortality chance. To add to that, since blanket steriliation is not an option, the population in the jungle will quickly fill the void created in the periphery. The leopard conflict in Junnar is due to sugarcane cultivation. In Sanjay Gandhi National Park in Mumbai, it is due to the high density of free-ranging animals immediately outside the park. The solution lies in changing the crop pattern and managing free-ranging animals, not in sterilising leopards. It will not work in Pune, Mumbai, Bengaluru, or any other city or place," said Shardul Bajikar, a naturalist and education officer at Bombay Natural History Society.

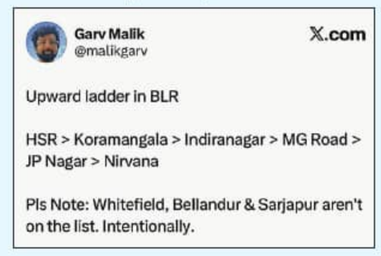
SOCIAL TATTLE

BANGALORE MIRROR TAGGED

A X user has tagged the authorities quoting from a BM story on the safety risks to pedestrians asking officials to make sure there are footpaths in the NPKL Layout.

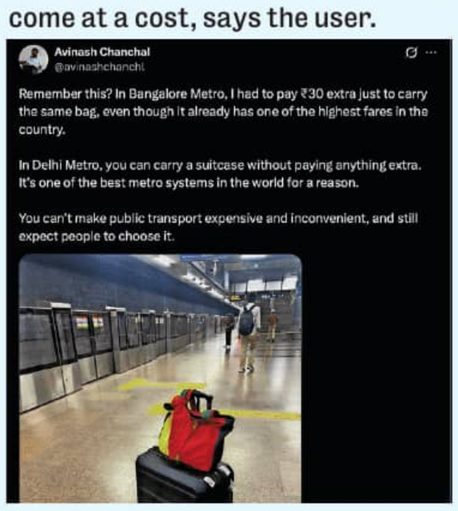
THAT WENT VIRAL

@malikgarv on X- The "Bangalore ladder" to just success... or perception?



@serioustauren on X urged the public to explore Bengaluru, Bangalore isn't boring, you just haven't explored it right.

@avinashchanchl on X asked , Paying extra for baggage in BLR Metro? Convenience shouldn't come at a cost, says the user.



Same, but different: Meet, newly-identified Kali night frog

Scientists identify cryptic amphibian species in forest streams, using genetic and acoustic analysis, highlighting fragile ecosystems and urgent conservation challenges

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a significant addition to India's rich biodiversity, researchers have identified a new species of night frog from the central Western Ghats of Karnataka. Named Nyctibatrachus kali, or the Kali Night Frog, the species was discovered in forest streams of Castle Rock and is closely associated with the River Kali and the Kali Tiger Reserve. This stream-dwelling amphibian belongs to the Nyctibatrachus genus, commonly known as night frogs, a group largely endemic to the Western Ghats. The discovery marks the 35th species in the genus, reinforcing the region's ecological importance. Though it closely resembles Nyctibatrachus kumbara, scientists confirmed it as a distinct cryptic species through detailed genetic and acoustic analysis.

Globally, over 9,000 amphibian species are known, with India contributing nearly 5.3% of this diversity. However, nearly 40% face extinction due to habitat loss, climate change, and disease, making such discoveries vital for conservation.

Published in the journal PeerJ, the study titled "Hiding in plain sight: Description of a new species of Nyctibatrachus" explains how the frog remained undetected due to its resemblance to N Kumbara. "The Kali Night frog closely resembles Nyctibatrachus kumbara, hence it is called a cryptic species. However, certain morphometric characters like forelimbs, finger discs differ between Kali night frog and Kumbara night frog. There are genetic differences that distinguish N kali from N Kumbara. Kali Night frog can be distinguished from Kumbara night frog from their calls," said Dr Preethi Hebbar, Assistant Professor MIT, Bengaluru, MAHE.

Stream-dwelling Kali Night Frog highlights hidden biodiversity, remaining undetected for years due to its striking resemblance to Nyctibatrachus kumbara; Picture Courtesy: Dr Gururaja KV

"Acoustic signals, or advertisement calls, act as a signature for amphibians and are the primary factor in reproductive isolation. Nyctibatrachus kali differs from other species in spectral parameters, such as the dominant frequency (Hz) of its calls. Species similar to N kali produce two distinct advertisement calls that vary in dominant frequency—Advertisement Call 1 (AC1), a lower-frequency call, and Advertisement Call 2 (AC2), a higher-frequency call. Nyctibatrachus kali differs from other species in both call types. These differences in acoustic signals make the species unique and identifiable," added Hebbar.

"There is no data as of now on its habitat preferences, breeding behaviour and lifecycle; it is found in forest streams with adequate canopy cover and big boulders," she said.

"There is a proposed railway line doubling, transmission lines, and road expansion in this region, along with a continuous influx of tourists who use the streams for bathing or dump plastic and glass bottles. We need more research to understand these threats and require long-term monitoring of these sites for effective management and conservation," she added. The study involved Aravind CK, Dr Preethi Hebbar, Prof Gururaja KV, and forest officials Ramesh Badiger and CR Naik.

All eyes on digital arrest con

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The numbers indicate that more than three such cases were being reported every day, which means one digital arrest scam occurred roughly every eight hours across Karnataka. Financial losses during that year were staggering, with victims cheated of ₹219.42 crore, although authorities managed to recover ₹27.82 crore.

In comparison, 2023 saw 196 digital arrest cases, which works out to roughly one case every 44 hours on average. Victims lost ₹22.52 crore during the year, while about ₹2.32 crore was recovered by investigators.

Police officials attribute the decline in cases since the peak in 2024 partly to stronger enforcement measures and awareness campaigns across the state. The government has re-designated 45 CEN police stations as dedicated cybercrime police stations, empowering them to register and investigate offences under the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

To strengthen cybercrime investigations, the state has also created the post of Director General of Police for Cyber Command, who directly oversees cybercrime police stations and coordinates statewide action against digital fraud networks.

Police and cybercrime units have also stepped up public awareness campaigns, conducting programmes in schools, colleges, companies and residential communities.

Advisories about digital arrest scams are regularly issued through television, newspapers and social media platforms, urging citizens not to transfer money based on threatening calls or messages.

THE CORE ISSUE

National Board for Wild Life panel highlights importance of coexistence in core areas of tiger reserves

In a recent meeting, the standing committee of the National Board for Wild Life has highlighted the importance of coexistence in core areas of tiger reserves. It has also been noted that voluntary relocation of villages from core areas should happen only when communities are willing.

The committee has also observed that appropriate socio-economic and ecological studies may be undertaken in a more effective identification of core areas, buffer areas, and eco-sensitive zones, and to facilitate informed choices by villages opting either for voluntary residence in such areas or voluntary relocation

Citing the example of Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve in Karnataka, NBWL members have pinpointed that tribal communities have resided in the reserve area for centuries, and tiger populations have nevertheless increased substantially over the years.

This suggests that coexistence-based management approaches have, in some instances, successfully supported conservation outcomes without necessitating relocation of local communities.

Conservationists say that the relocation of villagers from core areas of tiger reserves should always be voluntary. However, the process is not followed in many cases.

"One such example is relocation done from the Kali Tiger Reserve without Gram Sabha consent. Moreover, although WLPA has no provision for relocation from buffer areas, it has happened too. An important aspect of voluntary relocation is mainstreaming villagers. Both people and wildlife must prosper to term any relocation project as a success, which has not been the case in most relocation projects in Karnataka," said a wildlife conservationist.

Dr. Raman Sukumar of the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, who is also an NBWL member, pointed out during the meeting that in 2007, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had issued directions to all states to notify the core or critical tiger habitat of tiger reserves within a period of one month.

Owing to this limited timeframe, several states hastily expanded the core areas by merging portions of the erstwhile buffer areas without adequate site-specific assessment.

As a consequence, a large number of villages that were earlier located in buffer zones came to fall within the ambit of critical tiger habitat.

The committee observed that a balanced approach is required, which recognizes both conservation priorities and the socio-economic aspirations of local communities.

'More and more patients making use of free service'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

at the dialysis centre. Since the building has no Cauvery water supply, the dialysis centre has to depend on a borewell for water. The water they receive is muddy and hard. As the water level indicator is defunct, the dialysis centre has to assign one of its employees to check the water level in the tanks kept atop of the building. "One of us has to take up the responsibility to check the water level in the tanks.
There are occasions where water overflows while we are busy attending to patients. The water quality is very poor," said one of the employees on the condition of anonymity.

It is said the existing diesel generator is not much use for the dialysis centre as no one knows when it functions and when it becomes defunct. The employees and patients told BM that the generator must be replaced as power outages are common in summer. "There was no electricity for a whole day recently. Since the diesel generator was not functioning, we had to stop dialysis for that period. Power outages pose danger to the patients undergoing dialysis," said one of the employees.

Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) Medical Officer of Health Dr Dayanand told BM that he is aware of electricity issues at the dialysis centre.

Muddy and hard water overflows from an overhead tank; The quality of water in one of the tanks

"We have measures to improve the quality of service at the dialysis centre. Now, patents are happy and their number is increasing day by day. I will look into the electricity and water issues. Dialysis is being provided for patients free of cost. After Covid, we started this dialysis centre with three patients. Now 40 to 60 patients are availing of dialysis here," said Dr Dayanand.

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I, C Mohammed Raihan, r/o #651, 14 Crs, 30 Main, I Ph, JPN, Blr–560078, hereby decl. that my parents' names were wrongly recorded in my ICSE (2021) & II PUC (2023) recs. as "C Waseeem Ahmed" & "Nahida Akther G". I decl. that their correct names are C Waseem Ahmed (F) & G Nahida Akther (M), as per affdt. dt. 1/4/26 sworn before XXX Addl. Chief Jud. Mag., Blr (Cert. No. IN-KA23836557986843Y).

I Ravi N V S/o Narasimha Mandadi Gupti S/O, Narasimhappa R/o No 22, Ground Floor, Vasantha Nilaya, 6th Cross, Near Rr School, Venkatagiriyappa Layout, Doddabommasandra, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560097. have changed my name to Ravi N V S/o Narasimhappa.

I Abdul Rahman, S/o Andi Ambalam D.O.B 05-04-1968 BTM Layout Bangalore, Changed My Name from Abdul Rahman Andi Ambalam, to Abdul Rahman Vide Affidavit No IN-KA28895880957061Y Dt.07-Apr-2026 before Notary by Mohammed Hussian.

I, PALANI S M R/O NO.15/1 Kashi Vishwanath temple Road Vannarpet Bangalore We changed my minor daughter name from P Pranaya to Pranaya P (28-10-2014) for all future purposes vide affidavit no.8810 dated 09-04-2026

I Sowbhagya W/o Murthy R/o #184, 21st Cross,3rd Sector, Behind H S R Club ,HSR Layout, B'luru-560102 have changed my name to Bhagya Murthy.

I S HEERA KOUSER W/o Mohammed Rafi R/@ No 7/1-1 17th Cross Padarayanapura Bangalore 560026 has changed my name to HEERA KOUSAR for all purposes

I, Satish N S/o N Nanjappa R/o 51/1,3rd Cross, Devegowda Block, Adugodi, Bangalore-560030 have changed my name to Sathish.N

GT is at 5th spot with two wins; LSG sinks to sixth spot

Fifties from Gill, Buttler power GT to seven wicket win over LSG

A sensational four-wicket haul by Prasidh Krishna and fifties from skipper Shubman Gill and Jos Buttler helped Gujarat Titans (GT) to a seven-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in their Indian Premier League (IPL) clash on Sunday.

GT is at the fifth spot with two wins and two losses, with four points. LSG has sunk to sixth spot, having the same win loss record.

Put to bat first, LSG scored 164/8, with only Aiden Markram (30 in 21 balls, with five fours and a six) crossing the 20-run mark and Krishna picking 4/28 in his spell.

During the chase, fifties from Gill (56 in 40 balls, with six fours and a six) and Buttler (60 in 37 balls, with 11 fours) helped GT reach the target safely with seven wickets and eight balls left.

Sai Sudarshan started off by getting two fours against Mohammed Shami in the first over. He and skipper Shubman Gill played it safe till the fifth over, when Gill smacked Shami for a 4,6,4 and 4 to get 20 more runs.

Digvesh Rathi however pushed GT back by dismissing Sai Sudharsan for a 14-ball 15 (with three fours) on his first ball. GT were 45/1 in 5.1 overs. However, courtesy a backfoot punch from Jos Buttler, GT reached the 50-run mark in 5.5 overs.

Buttler and Gill collected plenty of runs against left-arm spinner George Linde, hitting him for 21 runs in his first two overs, with both batters sharing the spoils. Halfway through, GT was 86/1, with Buttler (22*) and Gill (48*) unbeaten.

Lucknow Super Giants' Aiden Markram takes a catch of Gujarat Titans' Jos Buttler

Players greet each other at the end after Gujarat Titans won the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match against Lucknow Super Giants at Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow on Sunday

Gill, who also had completed his 4,000 IPL runs, reached his second-successive fifty in 34 balls, with six fours and a six. Buttler ended this 12th over by Avesh by hitting him for a hat-trick of fours, bringing up the 100-run mark in 11.4 overs.

Buttler, who also reached the landmark of 14,000 T20 runs, also reached his second-successive fifty in the tournament, with nine fours in just 29 balls.

However, Prince Yadav broke the 84-run stand, getting Gill caught behind by Rishabh Pant for a 40-ball 56. GT were 129/2 in 14.5 overs.

Shami also sent back Buttler for a 37-ball 60, with 11 fours, courtesy a fine catch by Aiden Markram.

Washington Sundar and Rahul Tewatia ended the run-chase for GT at 165/3 in 18.4 overs, with the former unbeaten at 21* in 13 balls, with two fours and a six and Tewatia unbeaten at 10*.

Shami, Prince and Digvesh took a wicket each for GT.

Gujarat Titans' (GT) pacer Prasidh Krishna claimed four wickets as he helped his team restrict Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) to 164/8 in 20 overs in the first innings of their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 clash on Sunday at the Ekana Cricket Stadium. Krishna scalped the wickets of LSG opener Aiden Markram, Ayush Badoni, Nicholas Pooran, and Mukul Choudhary.

Today's battle
Sunrisers Hyderabad
VS
Rajasthan Royals
7.30 PM Hyderabad

Change-ups based on bouncers worked, says Prasidh

India speedster Prasidh Krishna believes that using change-ups cleverly, including a mixture of hard lengths and variation in bouncers, has worked wonders for him during the ongoing Indian Premier League.

Prasidh, who is once again leading the list of top wicket-takers in this edition, took 4 for 28 in a game-changing performance against Lucknow Super Giants here on Sunday. He got one with a hard length delivery, one with back of the length and two wickets with variations of off-cutter bouncer and wide bumper.

"I think it's a mixture of bowling those hard lengths, those bouncers, the off-cutters. The other bases were bowling based on bouncers, so I thought I could bring up the change-up and that actually worked for us," Prasidh said at the post-match press conference.

In fact, the delivery that he bowled to dismiss the hard-hitting Mukul Choudhary was the best of the match. He rolled his finger with an off-break grip but used his wrists to dig it in as Mukul tried to jump and play a cross-batted heave, only to edge one to keeper.

However, Prasidh believes that usage of short balls is based on nature of the surface. "As a bowler, you can bowl a yorker, you can bowl a length ball, you can bowl a bouncer. So we just try and play around with those things and on certain days some balls really work well and you stick with it." Prasidh believes that there was something for both batters and bowlers on the Ekana track here. "The pitch was challenging, I would say. Even for the bowlers, if you didn't get your line on them right, ball won't travel. We saw that in the powerplay a bit as we missed the slots. They played quite a few good shots, I would say. So it was quite challenging for both bowlers and the batsmen," Prasidh said. — **PTI**

Kohli continues fine run at Wankhede Stadium, becomes first batter to reach 1,000 runs v/s MI

Star India and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batter Virat Kohli continued his love affair with Mumbai Indians (MI) and the Wankhede Stadium as he became the first-ever batter to hit 1,000 runs against the five-time champions on Sunday.

During the high-octane match against MI, Virat held one end steady as Phil Salt and skipper Rajat Patidar fired massive sixes, scoring 50 in 38 balls, with five fours and a six, at a strike rate of over 131.

Now against MI, Virat has scored 1,030 runs in 36 innings at an average of 32.18 and a strike rate of 129.23, with a best score of 92* and seven fifties.

In his four innings in this edition of the season so far, Virat has made 179 runs at an average of 59.66, with a strike rate of 162.72, including two fifties and a best score of 69*. In 23 matches and innings at Wankhede Stadium, Virat has made 888 runs at an average of 55.5, with a strike rate of 148.49, with nine fifties and a best score of 92*. Virat also had a century partnership with Phil Salt, registering his 47th century partnership in T20s, the most by a batter in T20s, outdoing Chris Gayle, who was involved in 46 such stands.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli plays a shot during the match between Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, in Mumbai, Maharashtra, on Sunday

A 120-run stand between Salt (78 in 36 balls, with six fours and six sixes) and Virat and a 65-run stand between Virat (50 in 38 balls, with five fours and a six) and skipper Patidar (53 in 20 balls, with four boundaries and five sixes) and later some brutal hitting from David (34* in 16 balls, with two fours and three sixes) pushed RCB to a massive score of 240/4 in 20 overs.

RCB opening pair sets new powerplay benchmark since IPL 2024

The opening partnership of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) has emerged as one of the most explosive forces in the Indian Premier League (IPL) since the start of IPL 2024, with numbers highlighting their unmatched consistency at the top of the order.

According to CricViz, since the beginning of IPL 2024, RCB have registered a fifty-plus opening stand on 12 occasions -- the most by any team in this period, underlining their dominance in the cash-rich league.

RCB's opening combinations have also delivered high-impact partnerships. The franchise has recorded 16 century-plus opening stands in the IPL, reflecting a tradition of aggressive starts at the top of the order. One of the standout statistical highlights came in their latest milestone stand, which reached the 100-run mark in just 8.4 overs during their clash against the five-time champions Mumbai Indians in an IPL 2026 match. This makes it the second-fastest century partnership in RCB's IPL history. —**ANI**

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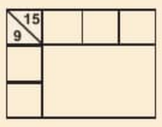
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

Abhishek while going from Lucknow to Delhi covered half the distance by train at the speed of 96 kmph, half the rest of the distance by his scooter at a speed of 60 kmph and the remaining distance at the speed of 40 kmph by car. The average speed at which he completed his journey is?

Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



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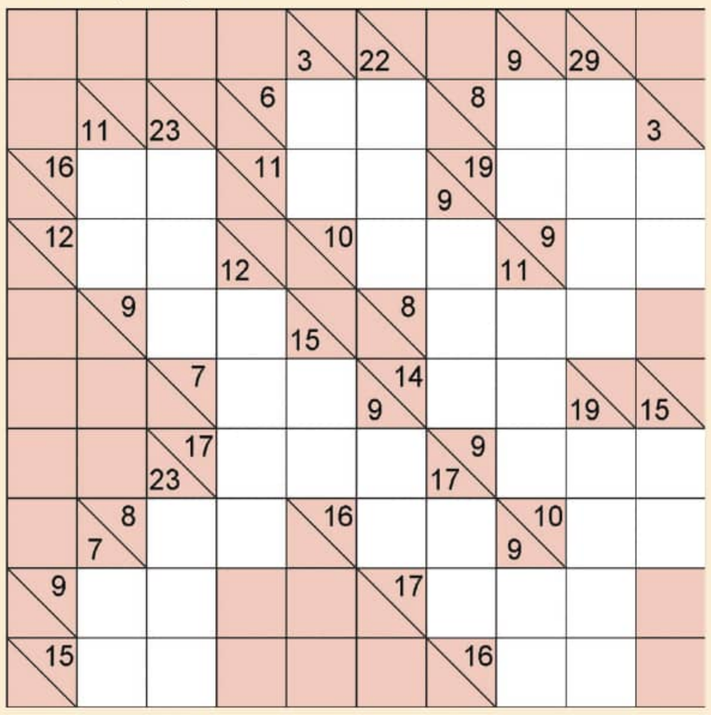
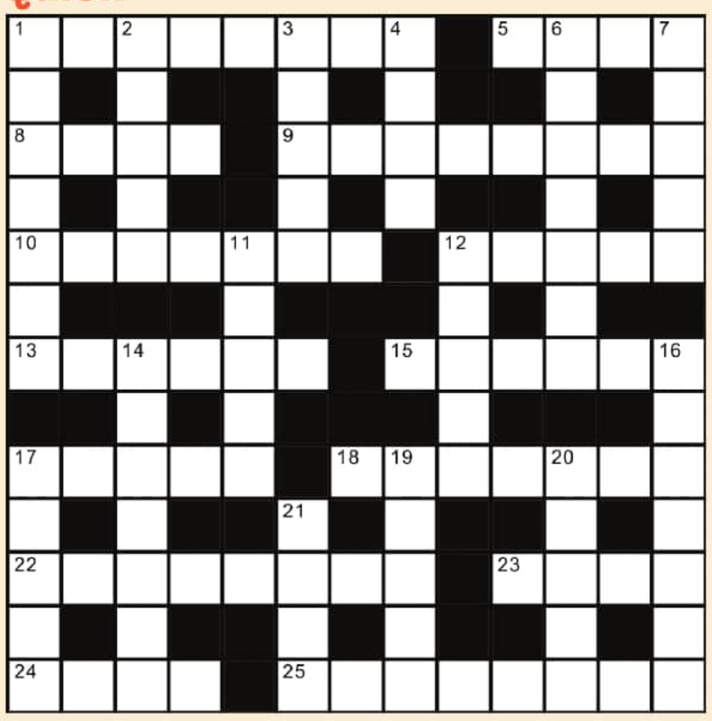


Quick



ACROSS

1 Breaks into pieces (8)
5 Cold confections (4)
8 Aussie lake (4)
9 Nullify or abolish (8)
10 Threats or intimidations (7)
12 Armed strongholds (5)
13 Capital of Assam (6)
15 Messiah composer? (6)
17 Demise (5)
18 This victory is too costly (7)
22 Minor display adjacent to a larger one (8)
23 Legspinner ___ Mishra (4)
24 Takes to court (4)
25 Torments maliciously (8)

DOWN

1 Arose or derived from (7)
2 Moses' brother (5)
3 Delete or rub out (5)
4 Beget (4)
6 Scorched or burned (7)
7 Oozes through (5)
11 Day-bed (5)
12 Natural ability (5)
14 Lifesize cardboard cutout (7)
16 Finds, ascertains or discovers? (7)
17 CDs or DVDs (5)
19 Went off course (5)
20 Tourist destination which used to be the capital of the Vijayanagar Empire (5)
21 A biblical king (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS P

KPEF LZPLXZ YPQXA SHFUZS BNCZ FUHO BZF HRRZGFNPO.

Linemaro

I have the 'I', I have the 'L', I have the 'O', I have the 'V', I have the 'E', so can I have 'U'?

Mindchow

Men do not shape destiny; destiny produces the man of the hour

Joke of the day

Home: The place where you can scratch any place you itch

Loop

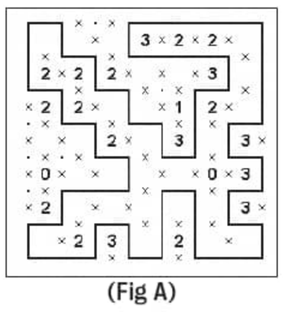
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

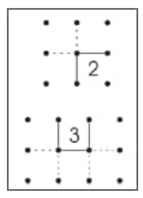
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

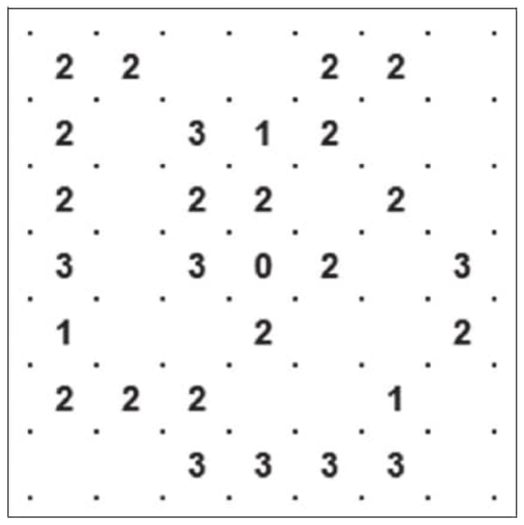
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



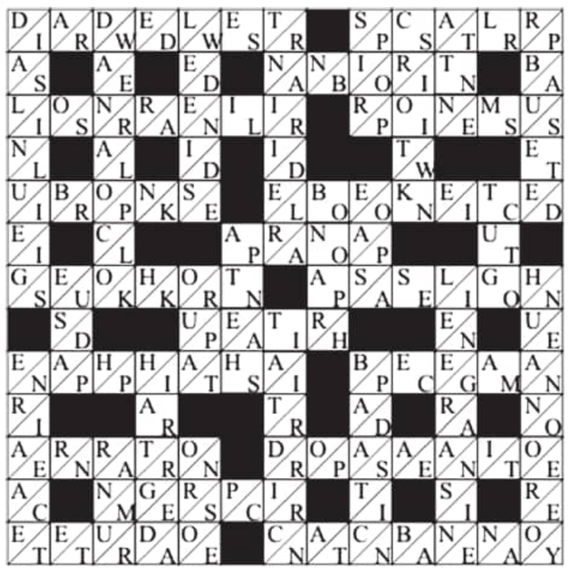
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



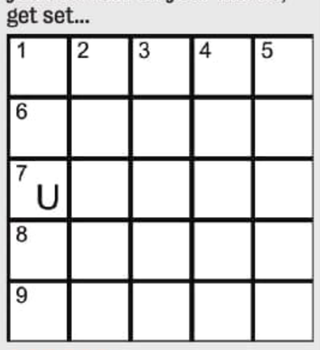
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

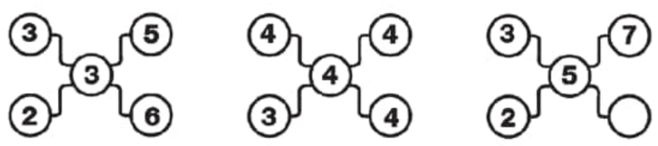
1 By mas; 6 To qua; 7 Regur; 8 A Nasa; 9 Asset

DOWN

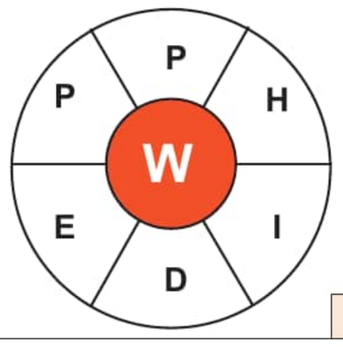
1 Eau AQ; 2 Us bar; 3 So gay; 4 Tents; 5 As arm

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from the last grid?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; **04** Good; **05** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	9			4				
	5			2		7		1
		8	6	9	7	4		
	1	3	2					4
2					5	1	6	
		9	7	5	8	3		
8		1		3			4	
				1			2	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

□□□□□□□ = 3

1 5 5 2

Medium

□□□□□□□ = 6

4 5 8 1

Hard

□□□□□□□ = 14

3 4 4 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

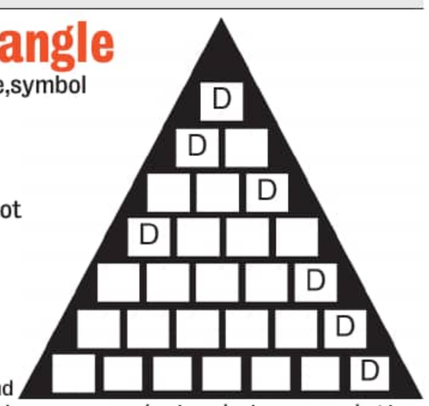
Differences: 1. Ball is moved. **2.** Leg is higher. **3.** Branch is different. **4.** Cap is different. **5.** Collar is different. **6.** Hill is added in background.

Riddler

I am in the sky but also in the ground. When you study me, no matter how long, I will always end with an f. I may be in your yard but not in your house. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Hydrogen isotope,symbol
2 Act
3 Whale group
4 Narcotic
5 Wished
6 Leaped on one foot
7 Hewn

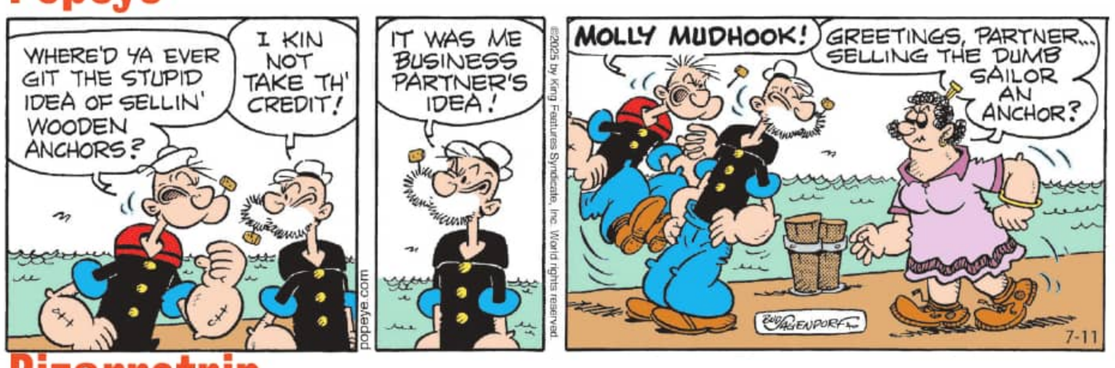


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

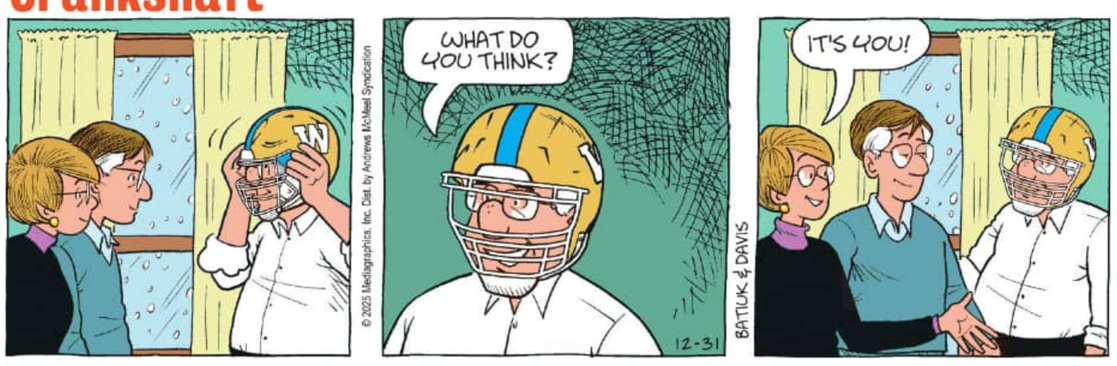


Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

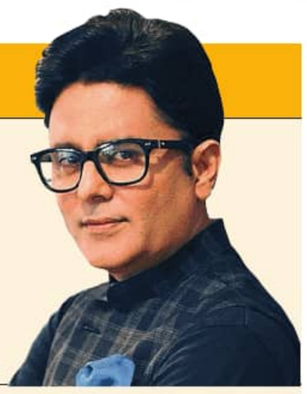
Crankshaft



Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Your birthday begins a year encouraging courage, curiosity, and meaningful movement. Travel may connect with work ambitions or long delayed dreams. Romance feels playful, sincere, and emotionally fulfilling. Finances improve through smart timing and persistence. Domestic life offers warmth, music, laughter, and creative energy. Believe in your vision and step boldly ahead because the months ahead reward passion, patience, and optimism.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Be cautious with spending today, Aries. An opportunity may appear attractive but could hide risks. Before committing money or investments, evaluate details carefully to avoid unnecessary financial mistakes.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

A situation that once seemed confusing may suddenly become clear today, Taurus. A simple explanation helps you and a friend move forward easily toward shared goals.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

You will impress many people today, Gemini, even if a few misunderstandings occur. Perfection isn't necessary, appreciate your accomplishments and remain satisfied with your overall performance.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Unexpected disruptions may affect your plans today, Cancer. Rather than stressing about the reasons, focus your energy on responding wisely to changing circumstances and maintaining control of your attitude.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Learning and teaching go hand in hand today, Leo. Sharing your knowledge with younger people may reveal new perspectives. Guiding others can be both challenging and deeply rewarding.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Past efforts begin rewarding you today, Virgo. Confidence encourages you to follow your own approach, though maintaining humility remains important. Lead calmly rather than becoming overly authoritative.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Your generous nature may occasionally attract people who take advantage, Libra. Minor setbacks could test your patience today. Stay composed and return to your natural charm and positivity.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Remain cautious today, Scorpio. Negative influences or challenging situations may appear unexpectedly. Stay observant, learn from each experience, and continue moving forward with wisdom.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

You may feel eager to handle multiple responsibilities today, Sagittarius. Staying busy suits your energy, and supportive colleagues or friends will gladly help if tasks become overwhelming.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Work pressure may increase today, Capricorn, keeping you occupied. Focus on completing responsibilities while engaging with others and learning from their knowledge through open, meaningful conversations.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

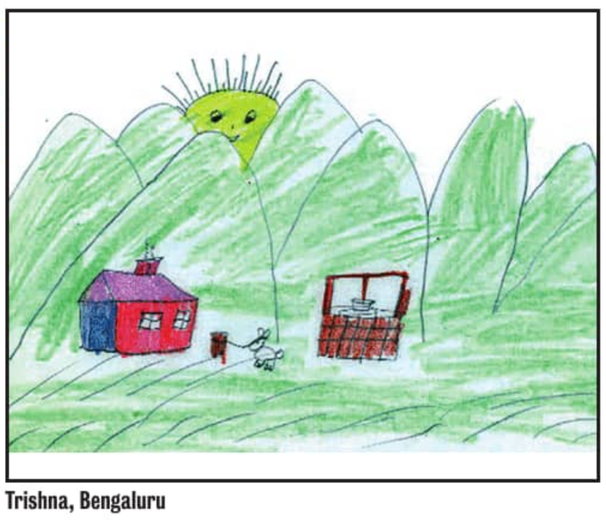
Today may bring demanding challenges, Aquarius, but good fortune supports you. Important professional opportunities or agreements may appear. Though exhausting, the experience will ultimately feel rewarding and energizing.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Personal growth becomes a major theme today, Pisces. Courses or learning opportunities may attract your attention, while business prospects appear promising. Ending the day with family restores emotional balance and belonging.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Trishna, Bengaluru

Akhilesh, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

Let the total distance be S
Total time covered...
T=t'+t"+t"'= (S/2)/v'+(S/4)/v"+(S/4)v"'
=S/192+S/240+S/160; so.... Average speed
V=S/T
=S/[S/192+S/240+S/160)
= 1/[1/192+1/240+1/160]
=960/(5+4+6)
= 960/15=64
Ave.speed.= 64 km/hr

BULL'S EYE

whip, WHIPPED, wide, wipe, wiped

FAST FIVE

A	B	Y	S	M
Q	U	O	T	A
U	R	G	E	R
A	S	A	N	A
E	A	S	T	S

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE

8. In each diagram the central value equals the difference between the product of the top two numbers and bottom two numbers.

RIDDLER

A leaf
Most people would rather give than get affection.

QUOTE UNCODE

7	9	2	5	4	1	6	8	3
6	5	4	8	2	3	7	9	1
1	3	8	6	9	7	4	5	2
5	1	3	2	6	9	8	7	4
9	8	6	1	7	4	2	3	5
2	4	7	3	8	5	1	6	9
4	2	9	7	5	8	3	1	6
8	6	1	9	3	2	5	4	7
3	7	5	4	1	6	9	2	8

SUDOKU

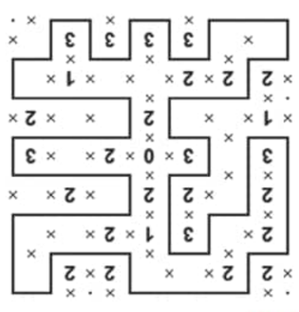
ALPHA TRIANGLE

D, Do, Pod, Dope, Hoped, Hopped, Chopped.

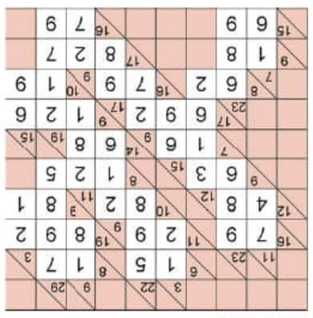
GO FIGURE

Easy
5 – 5 + 1 + 2 = 3
Medium
4 + 8 – 1 – 5 = 6
Hard
4 + 4 + 3 + 3 = 14

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 18, Issue No 072 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Asha Bhosle: September 8, 1933-April 12, 2026

BRIMFUL OF ASHA

From classical to cabaret: Music legend Asha Bhosle could do it all

Asha Bhosle, the legend who refused to be bracketed into any one genre and stepped out of the shadows of her sister's greatness to create her own universe in Hindi playback singing, died in a Mumbai hospital on Sunday. She was 92.

Asha, one half of the Mangeshkar duo whose versatility was unmatched even by her sister Lata, was admitted to Breach Candy Hospital on Saturday evening due to chest infection and exhaustion, her granddaughter Zanai Bhosle said.

The singer, who defied convention to add heft, depth and even oomph to women's voices in cinema, be it the lovelorn Meena Kumari in "Hum Intezar Karenge" or the unapologetically seductive Helen in "Piya Tu Ab To Aaja", is survived by her son Anand.

The last rites will be held on Monday.

"People can pay their last respects to her at 11 am on Monday at Casa Grande, Lower Parel, where she lived. Her last rites will be performed at 4 pm tomorrow at Shivaji Park," Anand told reporters.

Her voice which got listeners jiving to "Aaja, Aaja" just as skilfully as she got them to mourn lost love in "Chain Se Ham Ko Kabhi" filled the growing years of generations of Indians. And millions mourned her loss.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said her extraordinary musical journey, spanning decades, enriched Indian cultural heritage and touched countless hearts across the world.

Asha ruled the Hindi playback singing world along with her sister Lata for seven decades.

Asha herself sang for more than eight decades, recording an incredible 12,000 songs, a career graph almost impossible to take stock of. Her first song was in 1943 at the age of 10 for the Marathi film "Majha Bal". She continued to sing until the late 2010s and beyond, making her the longest performing singers in global music history.

Irrepressible, effervescent, vivacious. The adjectives were many for the artiste, who sang almost till the endand gamely danced too.

Maharashtra minister Ashish Shelar put out a post on X of the inimitable Asha Tai, as she was fondly called, singing a bhajan just a few days ago. Two years ago, she was seen recreating Vicky Kaushal's signature hook step in "Tauba Tauba" at a concert in Dubai.

Dressed in her trademark ivory-gold saree, diamonds and a white rose tucked in her hair, she recently posed for media cameras at Arjun Tendulkar's wedding in what was probably her last public appearance.

Asha got married to Ganpatrao Bhosle in 1949 when she was 16 and later in life married composer R D Burman with whom she had a fruitful collaboration right from "Mera Kuch Samaan" and "Dum Maaro Dum" to "Chura Liya Hai Tumne" and "Nahin, Nahin, Abhi Nahi". The songlist inspired by cabarets, romance, lament and every other tonality.

"She can sing all kinds of songs very well - sad songs, dance numbers and cabarets. I am not saying this because she is my sister, but it's my duty to speak about her qualities. Looking at the variety of songs she can sing, no singer can match her," Lata Mangeshkar is quoted as saying in the book 'Lata Mangeshkar in Her Own Voice" by Nasreen Munni Kabir. —PTI

Singers Asha Bhosle, Hridaynath Mangeshkar and Lata Mangeshkar giving a performance at Hridaynath Mangeshkar Musical Nite held at Shanmukhananda Hall on January 21, 1973; Singers Kishore Kumar, Asha Bhosle and R.D. Burman, Mumbai, 1986

Cameron Diaz's 'biggest ick' for guests arriving at her flat

Hollywood actress Cameron Diaz has shared that she asks guests to "change (their) clothes" before they set foot into her luxurious apartment in New York City.

The 53-year-old actress thinks the Big Apple's street germs are too dirty for her lavish $9 million condo in Walker Tower, Chelsea, Manhattan, reports 'Female First UK'.

During the recent episode of 'The Drew Barrymore Show', the host asked the actress for her "biggest ick", to which she said, "Shoes from the street in New York City". Drew, 51, quipped, "Yes, you cannot. If you want to go into her house, put a body condom on".

Laughing, Cameron concurred, "You have to change your clothes to come into my house in New York".

Drew shared, "It's true, and her house had no germs in it because of it". Cameron said, "Yeah. I roll around on my floors. It's OK".

As per 'Female First UK', the actress was joined on the sofa alongside Keanu Reeves, 61, Matt Bomer, 48, and Jonah Hill, 42, as the quartet promoted their new black comedy film, 'Outcome', which follows damaged star Reef (Keanu) apologising for his past after being blackmailed with outrageous video footage from his past.

And Cameron, who plays Kyle, Reef's longtime friend, said the movie explores the darker side of celebrity life.

She told 'People' magazine, "I also think that this movie shows (fame) in a very interesting light and a very heightened light."

—IANS

Celebration on sets

Ranabaali is a period action drama set between 1854 and 1878 during British rule. Reportedly the film draws inspiration from real incidents of the 1850s that were often ignored or misrepresented in mainstream history books.

Rashmika plays Jayamma, Vijay's wife in the film and on the last day, the couple received a sweet surprise when they returned to the sets of their upcoming period drama 'Ranabaali' after their wedding. The team welcomed the newlyweds with a small celebration, including cake cutting and bouquets.

The makers of the film shared photos and a video of the moment on social media.

The production team organised a small celebration for the couple on the sets. Rashmika and Vijay were seen cutting a big cake together while holding bouquets.

The official caption read, "Ranabaali - Jayamma @ TheDeverakonda- @iamRashmika Back on sets An eternal bond Team #Ranabaali wished the newlyweds on sets with a celebration Grand release worldwide on September 11th (sic)."

—ETimes